

FLANNERY, COTT

DRAWER 21A

SCULPTORS - F

71. 2009. 085. 02541



# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Lott Flannery

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



*Final*

For many years Lot Flannery's statue of Lincoln, one of the oldest in the District country, stood before the Courthouse in Washington, D.C., then while certain boundary lines in the vicinity were being changed, the statue was taken down much to the indignation of citizens and admirers. After several years in storage public opinion was sufficiently strong to influence the restoration of the work in its old place.

Lot Flannery, an Irish apprentice boy, was employed under several Italian sculptors who worked on the wings of the Capitol building when it was under construction; he also knew Lincoln.

The statue shows the President in a moment of impassioned speech. His hands are outstretched, one of them clutching a manuscript; his head is high.

The work was erected <sup>in 1868</sup> at the cost of \$7,000 donated by L. Natl. Mon. Assoc. It was originally about 40 feet high, but in 1923 the shaft was removed and the statue, now life size, now rests on a pedestal 10 feet in height.

Series No. 4

**Dedication of the Lincoln Monument at  
Washington, D. C., on the 15th Ultimo.**

THE monument erected to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, in front of the City Hall at Washington, was formally dedicated, with appropriate and imposing ceremonies, on the 15th of last month, the anniversary of his death. The monument consists of a Tuscan pillar, thirty-five feet high, surmounted by a colossal statue of the murdered patriot, the statue and column being both of white marble. It is the production of Lot Flannery, of Washington; the amount required for the work, \$7,000, being supplied by the voluntary contributions of the citizens of that city. An immense concourse assembled to witness the ceremony and to attest their respect for the occasion. The Masonic Orders, Sons of Temperance, and other civic organizations were fully represented, and were marshaled around the monument and in front of the portico of the City Hall, their banners and insignia creating a solemn but picturesque effect.

President Johnson stood on the platform, surrounded by military and naval officers, members of Congress and prominent officials connected with the Executive Departments. Many of the representatives of foreign governments were present, including the Ministers from England, Prussia, Italy, Greece, the Charge d'Affaires from Denmark, the Consul-General of Switzerland, with their attachés, and the gentlemen connected with other legations.

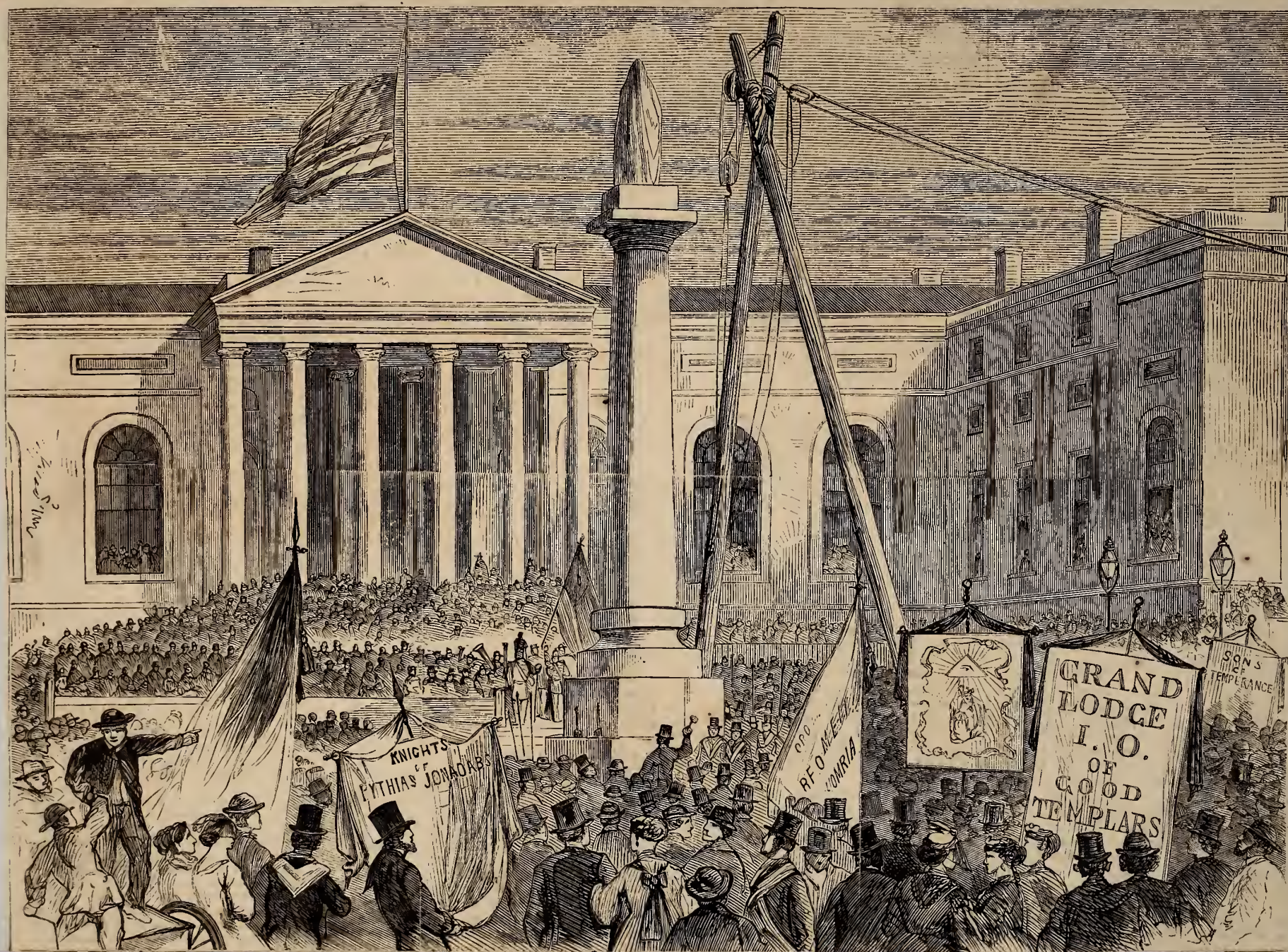
General Grant did not occupy the platform, but stood near and witnessed the proceedings.

During the ceremony, the rain fell at intervals, but sometimes the sun would burst through the clouds and light up the scene.

After prayer, and the playing of dirges by the hands, Major B. B. French delivered an oration, eloquently reviewing the life and services of Abraham Lincoln. Colonel E. B. Olmstead then recited a poem, at the conclusion of which President Johnson advanced to the front of the platform, and pulling at the halyards, unveiled the statue. The shouts of the multitude and the music of the hands filled the air, and the national flag was waved on the platform as the sculptured form of Abraham Lincoln was revealed. The artist was then introduced, and a benediction having been pronounced, the vast assemblage dispersed.

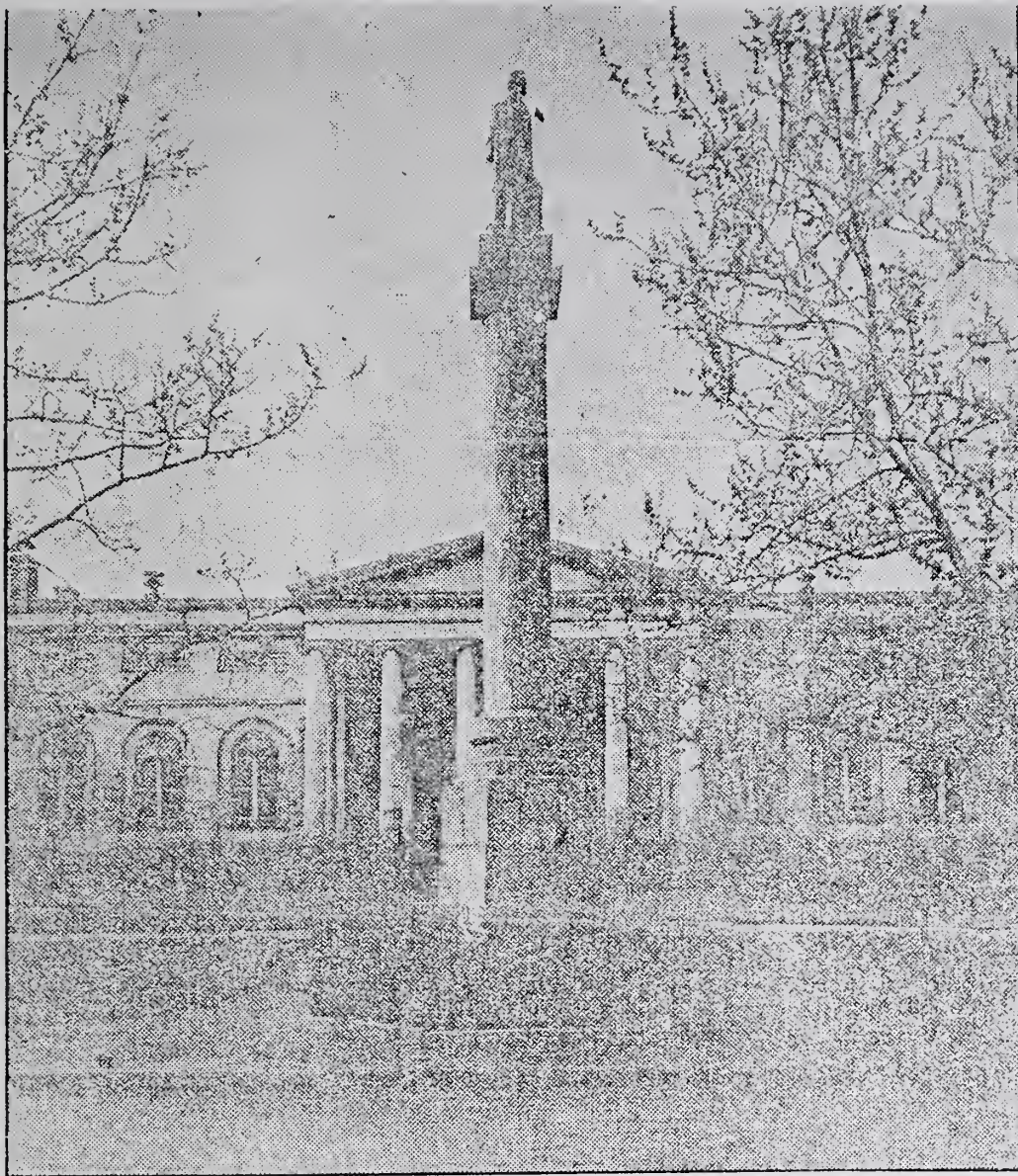
Our engraving represents the scene at the moment when the President advanced to unveil the statue.






DEDICATION OF THE MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, IN WASHINGTON, D. C., ON THE 15TH OF APRIL, 1868—PRESIDENT JOHNSON UNVAILING THE STATUE.—FROM A SKETCH BY JAMES E. TAYLOR.





Replacing of the Lot Flannery statue of Abraham Lincoln in front of the courthouse in Washington was begun this week. When the statue was removed during the remodeling of the courthouse three years ago its admirers objected and finally succeeded in having its replacement authorized. It is being erected within a few feet of its former site. Pending the completion of a white marble pedestal a wooden replica will be used. The original pedestal was a shaft about 20 feet high, but the new one is only 6½ feet high. This lowering of the statue is intended to make the features more clearly discernible to passersby.

11.4-1922



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012 with funding from  
State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/statuxxxxflinc>



# LINCOLN STATUE BACK IN PLACE

SENTIMENT FORCES RETURN OF  
HIS FIRST MEMORIAL IN  
WASHINGTON TO SITE.

## GOOD LIKENESS, WELL POSED

Artists and Others Find Fault With  
Many of the Statues of Eminent  
Men That Have Been Erected in  
the Capital City.

1921

By EDWARD B. CLARK.

Washington.—Sentiment in Washington has compelled the return to its former site of the statue of Abraham Lincoln which stood in front of the district court building facing John Marshall place. There was objection to the statue because it was said to be inartistic. Perhaps it was, but it was the first statue of Lincoln which was put up in the capital city, and for years was the only one. Sentiment hovered about it and now it is to be put back in the place from which adverse criticism caused its removal.

A good many men of unquestioned judgment thought that the Lincoln statue was a fine bit of art. It stood upon a tall, almost spindling pillar rising to a height of 25 feet. The tall figure of Lincoln surmounted it, and as someone expressed it, it seemed to be simply a straight line from the base of the pillar to the head of its surmounting figure. However, the statue looks like Lincoln and the pose of the figure is true to life, and therefore perhaps ought to be appealing even to an artist.

Washington has a great many statues with which fault is found, and unquestionably fault finding is well based in the cases of a considerable number of these memorials to more or less eminent men. Recently the statue of Admiral Dupont was removed from the center of Dupont circle and a beautiful memorial fountain to the old sailor was built to take its place. Nearly everybody, artist and layman, objected to the original Dupont statue.

### Faults of Sherman Statue.

Fault occasionally is found with the statue of General Sherman which stands in one of the most conspicuous places in the capital. It is impossible, for the present writer is not an artist, to say whether the fault finding is well based or not, but the truth remains that viewed from one standpoint, Sherman's head looks as if it were not big enough to hold a quarter of the quantity of brains which the old soldier possessed. Viewed from another standpoint, the horse upon which the general is mounted seems to have no head at all. This statue, however, is there to

stay, and perhaps its general excellencies outweigh the faults which laymen find with the work.

There are some rather sharp critics of the equestrian statue of General "Phil" Sheridan which is erected in Sheridan circle on Massachusetts avenue. It was the intention of the artist to represent Sheridan in the act of rallying his troops when he reached the front after "Sheridan's Ride" with "Winchester twenty miles away."

The horse has been brought back almost upon his haunches. The general is represented, with campaign hat in hand, giving the rallying signal. As a matter of fact one can almost hear Sheridan speak, but the critics have been at work saying this, that and the other thing about the statue. It has plenty of life in it, however, and the fact probably insures longevity for the memorial.

The best equestrian statue in the city of Washington probably is that of Gen. George H. Thomas who, mounted on his charger, appears on Thomas circle where Vermont and Massachusetts avenues cross each other. The horse is a noble creature and the statue of Thomas, himself, is appealing.

### Is Logan Statue Bad?

A good deal of fault has been found with the Logan statue in Iowa circle. It is said to be inartistic to a considerable degree, but the layman never knows whether the critics, some of whom are said to be artists, are finding fault because they like to pick some flaws, or whether, strictly artistically speaking, things are all wrong with the objects of attack.

The widow of General Logan is still living. She resides in Washington where also resides the widow of General Sheridan. It is said that these two soldiers' widows are entirely satisfied with the memorials to their husbands, and if so other criticism, at least so far as the present day is concerned, probably ought to pass.

Memorial hall in the capitol, which was the old house of representatives' chamber, frequently is called the "chamber of horrors." Both laymen and artists as a rule think that the name is well applied. Not more than a dozen of the statues in Memorial hall, and there must be three dozen of them altogether, seem to be at all worthy, and what makes it worse from one standpoint is the fact that a good many of these statues are those of men who are almost unknown to the general public.





1100. 24 1122

## Back Again

*This statue of Abraham Lincoln by Lot Flannery, removed from in front of the court house in Washington, D. C., is back again, by act of Congress.*







SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1922

# FIRST STATUE OF LINCOLN IS FOUND

## Congress Takes Initial Steps to Restore Marble to Washington.

Plain Dealer Bureau,  
38 Post Bldg.,  
WASHINGTON, April 29.

Found partially covered with an old piece of gunny sack, the first statue ever made of Abraham Lincoln is to be re-erected in Washington.

Congress has taken the first step toward ordering the statue re-erected where it stood for more than half a century, before the old court house in Judiciary square.

On Wednesday the house passed a bill introduced by Representative Edward J. King of Illinois, now congressman from the old Springfield district, once represented by Lincoln, which provides for restoration of the statue on a suitable base.

Exactly three years after he had given to his country the "full measure of devotion" the statue was erected, and remained there from April 15, 1868, until Dec. 20, 1920, when it was taken down. The high shaft on which it was mounted was criticized as inartistic.

The story of how Freeman Thorp, an artist who made a pencil sketch of Lincoln when he was delivering his famous Gettysburg speech and who has recently had an oil portrait that was painted from it hung in the corridor of the senate wing of the Capitol, scarched and found the abandoned statue of the martyred president, was told to the house by Mr. King.

### Found With Face Upturned.

"Mr. Thorp," said Representative King in his speech, "told me that he found down near the river the 'Lincoln' with upturned face covered partially

with an old gunny sack, which he drew aside, disclosing dust and rain spots. With his handkerchief he wiped away the stains from the pure white marble and again the wonderful face of the Lincoln he had known more than half a century before gazed kindly upon him.

"The resemblance to Lincoln was startling. The statue seemed almost to speak, and quoting Pope, 'The cold marble softened into life, grew warm.' Thorp leaned over and looked into the fine face of the marble and there he recognized every line that had existed in life.

"It was understood when the monument was taken down that it was to be carefully preserved in the basement of the court house, before which it stood, but such was not the case. For a long time no one knew where it had been taken. Mr. Thorp has worked untiringly to restore the monument."

"I have found the statue," wrote Mr. Thorp, who is now more than eighty years old. "It is down near the river in the rear of the old bureau of engraving and printing, not stored at all, but lying outdoors, roughly crated.

"I do not know who chiseled the face and head, but it was accurately done. It is a better likeness of Lincoln than anything in plaster, stone, marble or bronze that I have seen, and I have seen about all that have been made."

### Protected From "Assassins."

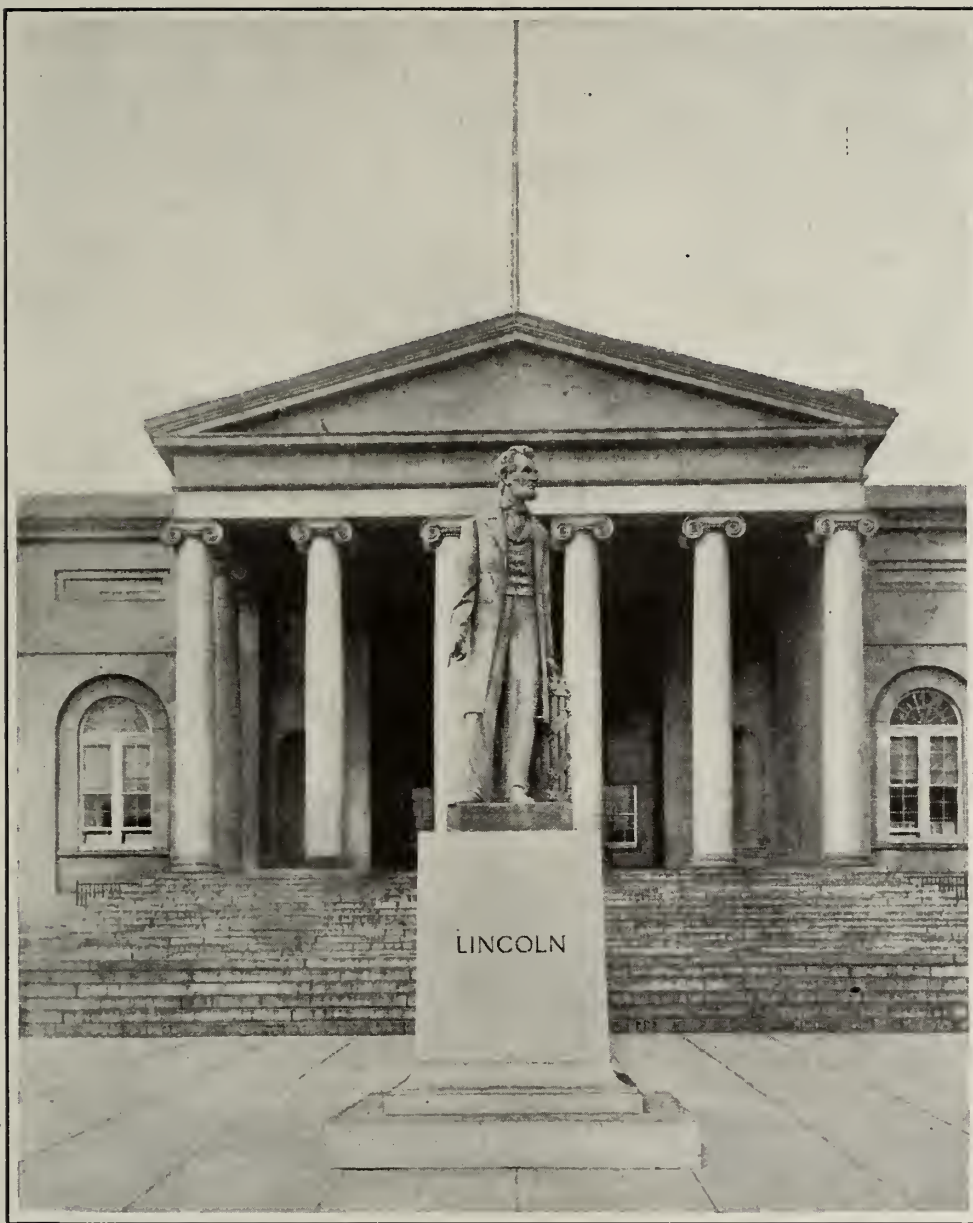
The statue of Lincoln is seven feet tall, being slightly in excess of his size in life, six feet four inches. On its former pedestal, the monument stood nearly forty feet high. According to L. Flannery, the sculptor credited with the Lincoln statue, he placed it "so high that no assassin's hand could ever strike him down."

Flannery, who was interviewed in his little shack in the shadow of the Capitol dome a few weeks before he died, said that he was in Ford's theater the night Lincoln was shot down.

"This noble monument," said Representative King in a recent speech to the house, "was the monument of the masses." These people who had personally seen Lincoln about Washington during the war accepted this statue as almost a living personification of their dead friend.

"The monument was paid for out of meager purses of the citizens of Washington, who had long suffered the privations of war."





© Underwood & Underwood

**STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN FRONT OF THE RESTORED DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON**

(This early statue, the work of Lot Flannery, a self-taught sculptor, has been placed once more on its original site, and is to be re-dedicated, pursuant to a resolution of Congress, on February 12, Lincoln's Birthday)





# SCULPTOR LONGS FOR 'HIS LINCOLN'

Aged Recluse of Capital Hopes  
Statue He Made Will Be  
Returned Some Day.

## SUSPICIOUS OF VISITORS

The Courier-Journal Washington Bureau.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Lott Flannery, bent with years and bearing the marks of the recluse, peered suspiciously through the crack of his partly opened door. Cautiously he drew the door a trifle wider to inquire what was wanted of the visitor.

Mr. Flannery doesn't receive visitors very often and he naturally is suspicious when one calls. He has been almost a hermit for many years now—and nearly within a stone's throw of the United States Capitol.

An old iron fence surrounds his yard, where weeds strive to hide a score of marble headstones—his handiwork of former years. His frame shanty shows decay. The windows are covered with dust. And over the door, which mocks its heavy lock, is the name of "L. Flannery."

### Looks Askance At Visitors.

Mr. Flannery's gray eyes are as keen as they might have been in the days of his youth as they peer through the partly opened door. They look askance at his visitor.

An excuse must be given to gain entrance. Inside the shack is in harmony with the front yard. A marble slab rests on supports, cut and carved, but not ready as yet for display, a bench and table and some odds and ends of marble, an old stove and a bedroom and Mr. Flannery.

"My poor Lincoln," he says. "They tore him down from where I put him, put him up so high no hand could reach him."

### Fight On to Restore Statue.

Over in the Capitol a fight is being made to restore to its former place in front of the District of Columbia Court House a statue of Lincoln. There it

was for years, high up on its pedestal, inclosed at one time by a little iron fence, and so placed that Lincoln seemed to be looking down Indiana Avenue to Congress. But eventually the Court House and the surroundings were "improved." The statue was taken down.

It was Mr. Flannery's work, the art-child of this old man, who lives in his little shanty just across from the Capitol, and who remembers always the tragedy wrought for him when his Lincoln was removed.

"My poor Lincoln," he begins again, and it is evident that, although many years have dulled his mind, his love for his creation has not been lost.

"My poor Lincoln; there I sat at Ford's Theater the night they killed him. There he was and there I sat when Booth struck him down."

Mr. Flannery wanders into phrases that have no meaning. But he resumes:

"When I made my Lincoln I made him as I knew him. I put him there where he could look down to the Capitol when he had to cry out for assistance. I put him up so high that no assassin could reach him."

"They say—what do they know about art or Lincoln?" he concludes.

His gray eyes demand an answer which you are afraid to give.

### Bitter Tirade Continues.

His mind flickers again. His bitter tirade continues against those who ordered the statue removed.

"But they are not going to keep it down," he shouts, and then he is somewhat pacified by the thought as he arises and paces the floor, his shoulders bowed and his head nodding. "Some of those who loved my poor Lincoln are going to put him back there."

Years ago Mr. Flannery came to this country from Ireland and settled in Washington. At that time they were making some of the first additions to the original Capitol and Mr. Flannery got a place there as stone-cutter. He studied and became a sculptor.

No other work of Lincoln is so true to the Lincoln face as the statue by Mr. Flannery, some artists say. From them has come the highest praise for old Mr. Flannery's work.

And Mr. Flannery waits for the verdict in his little shanty. The years hang heavy over him, his body lives, but only lives, his mind sharp only in memory of Lincoln, the man he idolized, and "his Lincoln."





# Representative King Says Hero Worship of Lincoln Grows

**Years Add to His  
Admiration for  
"Honest Abe."**

**Calls Discarding  
of Old Statue  
Sacrilege.**

The earliest recollection of Representative Edward J. King of Illinois show him sitting as a small boy with worshipping eyes in a small office in the prairie town of Galesburg, while a veteran of many battles of the civil war, his father, told him of the greatness of Abraham Lincoln.

"As we sat together in that small room, heated by an old wood-burning stove," Representative King recalls, "my father would dwell at length on his particular hero, whom he termed 'the United States' Greatest President.' He was wont to contribute to my education by relating incidents of the civil war, picturing the kindly sympathy, the far-sighted ability and the keen intelligence of the martyred Lincoln."

## Read Much of Lincoln.

"In my father's eyes," continued Representative King, "no man ever lived who compared with the immortal Lincoln, and amidst these talks I matured. Being a citizen of Illinois, I, too, developed a hero worship of Lincoln and as I grew older I read voraciously whatever could be found on the subject of 'Honest Abe.'"

It was one of the happiest moments of his life, the thrill of which has stayed with him through two score years, when the youthful King won a "Life of Lincoln" in an oratorical contest at Knox College.

With this background of devotion to Lincoln's memory, "it was with horror," in the spring of 1920, Representative King says, that he learned the famous statue of Lincoln, which has stood in front of the courthouse in the National Capital, and the only replica chiseled by an artist personally acquainted with the martyred president, was removed during the rebuilding of the courthouse and "was lying in a pile of rubbish down by the tidal basin."

## First Statue of Lincoln.

"It was a sacrilegious act to me to remove that grand old statue," Representative King explains his feelings. "In the first place, the statue had been erected by personal friends and intimates of the President through popular subscription. It was the first statue erected to Lincoln, and it was torn down while the artist who had carved it and many of those who had contributed to its construction were still alive."

Representative King immediately introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives for the restoration of the statue on its original site. Shortly afterward the library committee of the House had a hearing on numerous bills making disposition of the statue and, "of course, the right of the statue to remain upon its



REPRESENTATIVE E. J. KING.

original site could not be contraverted," Representative King says.

## Star Sponsored Subscription.

"The furor resulting from the removal aroused the ire of Gen. Nelson A. Miles, who took the matter up with the Loyal Legion, The Grand Army of the Republic, the Aztec Club members, Sons of the American Revolution and the District of Columbia pioneers voiced their protests.

"Gen. Miles arranged for a touching scene when more than 100 veterans of the civil war called upon President Harding in a group, together with Mrs. John A. Logan and several other prominent women, and urged the re-erection of the statue on its original site. The Washington Star, which had sponsored the original popular subscription for setting up the statue, joined in demanding the re-erection of this replica of the assassinated President."

## President Urges Restoration.

Reviewing what resulted, Representative King points out that President Harding wrote to the library committee of the House, stating:

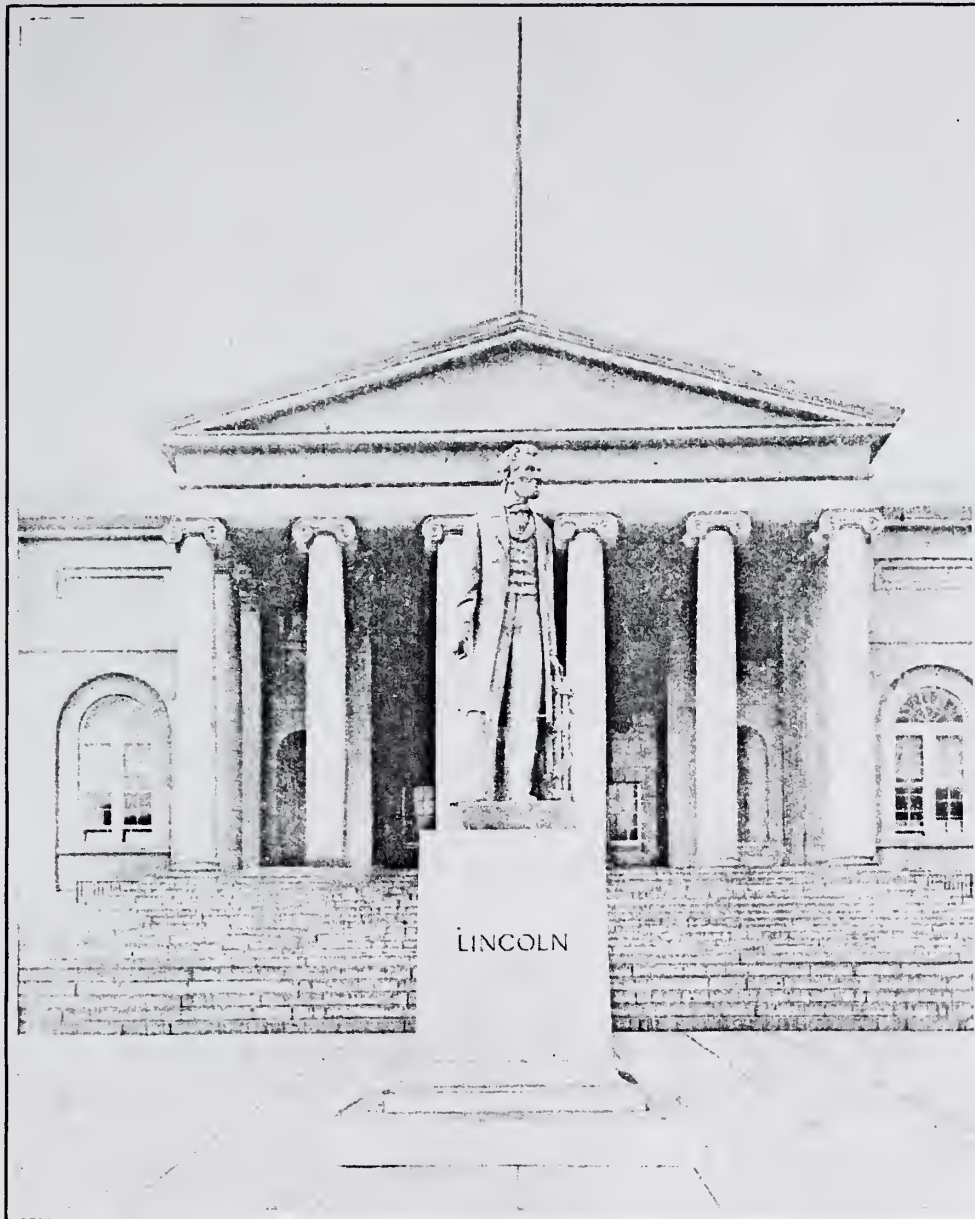
"There seems to be so much of appealing sentiment about the restoration of this statue to its original position that I think Congress might well expedite the reconsideration of the action previously taken so that this memorial may be restored to the place it so long occupied."

On May 25, 1921, the library committee of the House favorably reported the King bill for the re-erection of the statue on its original site. Then, as technical delays held up the passage of the resolution in the House, public clamor for the restoration of the statue grew.

On April 26, 1923, the resolution passed the House and a short time later it received the approval of the Senate and was signed by the President.

"Today the statue, re-erected on a pedestal more in harmony with its surroundings, looms up before the District courthouse," says Representative King, proudly, "and scores of persons who in years past had quietly honored the historical marble again pay tribute to it and to the man who saved the Union."





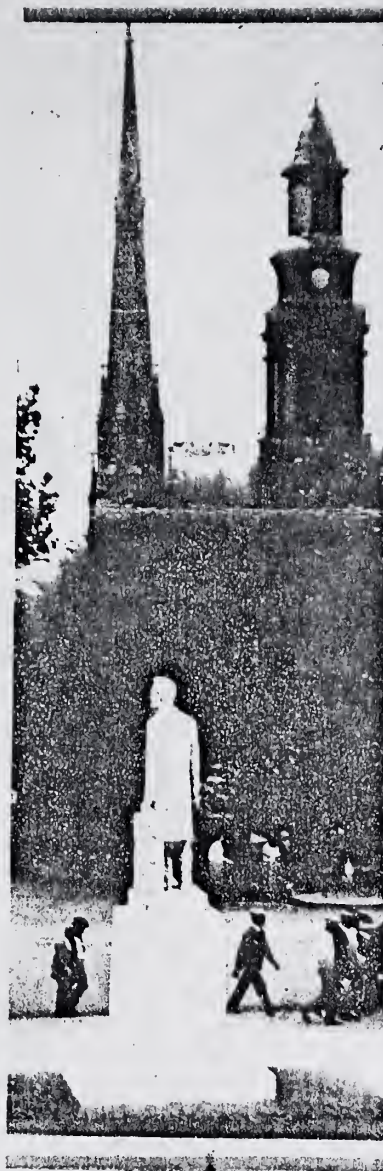
© Underwood & Underwood

**STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN FRONT OF THE RESTORED DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON**

(This early statue, the work of Lot Flannery, a self-taught sculptor, has been placed once more on its original site, and is to be re-dedicated, pursuant to a resolution of Congress, on February 12, Lincoln's Birthday) , 923. Review of Reviews . Feb 1923

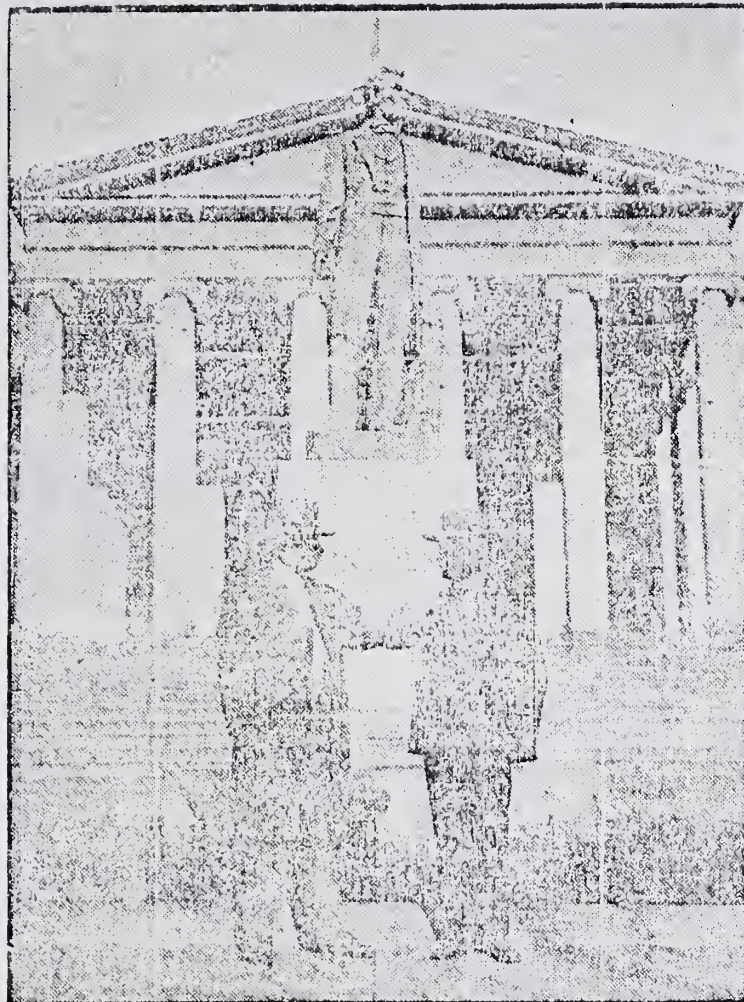






Down went the Lincoln statue, and up it went again. View from the City Court doorway of the statue of the Great Emancipator in Washington, D. C., which caused so much dispute when it was taken down and thrown in a cellar. Now it rests on a permanent base. 8-17-23





The north and south unite in the veneration of Abraham Lincoln. Here are Col. Lee Crandall (left), a Confederate veteran of 92 years, commander of the Forty-seventh Arkansas cavalry during the Civil war, and Col. John McElroy, Union veteran of the Sixteenth Illinois cavalry, standing before the statue of Abraham Lincoln in front of the District courthouse, Washington, D. C.

*Howard K. Law 2/2/25*





*Louisville Courier-Journal*  
SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 8, 1925.



—(P. & A. Photo.)  
Confederate and Union veterans of the War Between the States unite in Washington to pay tribute to President Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday anniversary is to be celebrated Thursday.





## The Country's First Tribute



The first tribute to Abraham Lincoln to be erected in this country, known as the Lot Flannery statue of the Great Emancipator, has been restored to practically its original position in front of the courthouse in the nation's capital. The statue was once removed from this position, but there was so much criticism that congress finally voted to have it restored.

*Highland Democrat  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.  
Feb 9-1924*

271151515

## Aged Recluse of Capital Hopes Statue He Made Will Be Returned Some Day.

### SUSPICIOUS OF VISITORS

The Courier-Journal Washington Bureau.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Lott Flannery, bent with years and bearing the marks of the recluse, peered suspiciously through the crack of his partly opened door. Cautiously he drew the door a trifle wider to inquire what was wanted of the visitor.

Mr. Flannery doesn't receive visitors very often and he naturally is suspicious when one calls. He has been almost a hermit for many years now—and nearly within a stone's throw of the United States Capitol.

An old iron fence surrounds his yard, where weeds strive to hide a score of marble headstones—his handiwork of former years. His frame shanty shows decay. The windows are covered with dust. And over the door, which mocks its heavy lock, is the name of "L' Flannery."

#### Looks Askance At Visitors.

Mr. Flannery's gray eyes are as keen as they might have been in the days of his youth as they peer through the partly opened door. They look askance at his visitor.

An excuse must be given to gain entrance. Inside the shack is in harmony with the front yard. A marble slab rests on supports, cut and carved, but not ready as yet for display, a bench and table and some odds and ends of marble, an old stove and a bedroom and Mr. Flannery.

"My poor Lincoln," he says. "They tore him down from where I put him, put him up so high no hand could reach him."

#### Fight On to Restore Statue.

Over in the Capitol a fight is being made to restore to its former place in front of the District of Columbia Court House a statue of Lincoln. There it was for years, high up on its pedestal, inclosed at one time by a little iron fence, and so placed that Lincoln seemed to be looking down Indiana

Avenue to Congress. But eventually the Court House and the surroundings were "improved." The statue was taken down.

It was Mr. Flannery's work, the art-child of this old man, who lives in his little shanty just across from the Capitol, and who remembers always the tragedy wrought for him when his Lincoln was removed.

"My poor Lincoln," he begins again, and it is evident that, although many years have dulled his mind, his love for his creation has not been lost.

"My poor Lincoln; there I sat at Ford's Theater the night they killed him. There he was and there I sat when Booth struck him down."

Mr. Flannery wanders into phrases that have no meaning. But he resumes:

"When I made my Lincoln I made him as I knew him. I put him there where he could look down to the Capitol when he had to cry out for assistance. I put him up so high that no assassin could reach him."

"They say—what do they know about art or Lincoln?" he concludes.

His gray eyes demand an answer which you are afraid to give.

#### Bitter Tirade Continues.

His mind flickers again. His bitter tirade continues against those who ordered the statue removed.

"But they are not going to keep it down," he shouts, and then he is somewhat pacified by the thought as he arises and paces the floor, his shoulders bowed and his head nodding. "Some of those who loved my poor Lincoln are going to put him back there."

Years ago Mr. Flannery came to this country from Ireland and settled in Washington. At that time they were making some of the first additions to the original Capitol and Mr. Flannery got a place there as stone-cutter. He studied and became a sculptor.

No other work of Lincoln is so true to the Lincoln face as the statue by Mr. Flannery, some artists say. From them has come the highest praise for old Mr. Flannery's work.

And Mr. Flannery waits for the verdict in his little shanty. The years hang heavy over him, his body lives but only lives, his mind sharp only in memory of Lincoln, the man idolized, and "his Lincoln."

## The Country's First Tribute



The first tribute to Abraham Lincoln to be erected in this country, known as the Lott Flannery statue of the Great Emancipator, has been restored to practically its original position in front of the courthouse in the nation's capital. The statue was once removed from this position, but there was so much criticism that congress finally voted to have it restored.

—00—

The Daily Intelligencer (Washington) of April 16, 1868 has an account of the erection of the first statue to Lincoln in Washington, D.C.

The Evansville Journal news for Sunday, January 25, 1920, contains an illustrated article giving an account of Congressman Euhring's attempt to have the above monument moved to Lincoln City.

26





By EDWARD C. EASTON

From The Inquirer Bureau.

14th and F Streets, N. W.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Notice has been frequently taken by keen observers, inclined to be critical of American methods, of the reverence with which all things possessing historic interest and value are regarded in the older countries as compared with the slight respect in which they are held here. The conclusion is largely based on the greater permanency of historic buildings in England and on the Continent, in contrast to the iconoclastic spirit of America, which is fast leveling all such structures to the ground.

Nowhere, perhaps, is this more evident than in Washington. One by one the ancient landmarks are vanishing. The statesmen of two decades ago would find themselves in strange surroundings if they were to come back. Already much of Pennsylvania avenue has become terra incognita. And the process of demolition will further change the aspect as the gigantic Government building programme begins to take form.

The change, of course, is largely for the better. Many reasons have been assigned, but it is all a part of the laws of growth and progress. The World War was one of the more influential factors. Prohibition had its effect in removing some of the celebrated places of convivial entertainment, to which many of the elder statesmen were wont to resort at more or less regular intervals, and on account of which fact they were invested with an added charm to those who remember those festive days. With the admitted betterment, however, the change has been accompanied with a measure of loss, which sometimes takes most definite shape.

By a strange coincidence an instance of this nature is directly connected with one of the vanished places of hitherto resort. This has been the discovery of Dan Sutherland, delegate to Congress from Alaska, and it has to do with the mysterious disappearance of a painting depicting the signing of the treaty between the United States and Russia for the purchase of Alaska.

#### Historic Painting Vainly Sought

Sutherland has a photograph of the painting, an enlargement of a reproduction appearing in a book, "Reminiscences of a Washington Statesman and Diplomat." The scene is the State Department. The various dignitaries are seen in conventional postures, some holt upright in their chairs, others pointing at the ever-present globe which innumerable usage requires should form part of such pictures. Frederick W. Seward, author of the book, figures in the group as a representative of the then younger set. The picture is by Emanuel Lentze, an artist of note, who also painted the large canvas now hanging in the Capitol, called "Westward Ho," depicting the trek of the prairie schooner and its hardy owners into the lands of the setting sun.

"My interest in the lost painting was largely inspired by Father Kashevaroff, a Russian priest in Alaska, now director of the Territorial Museum at Juneau," said Mr. Sutherland.

"For eight years I have been carrying on the search for the painting, but without avail. It hung for many years in the barroom of the Riggs House. When that hotel was torn down some time since, to make room for a modern building, the picture was lost sight of. It may have been destroyed as of no value, but its history to this point shows there might be real art treasures in a barroom. I am not an art connoisseur and have no money to buy the picture, but have continued the search in the hope I might get a good reproduction for nominal cost."

Sutherland's story revived memories of a strange freak of iconoclasm that remained unremedied for a number of years. The incident is noteworthy in that it fits well with the apparent never-ending interest in Abraham Lincoln. While much else has been swept aside, a marked recrudescence in the hold the Great Emancipator has had on the minds of men has been witnessed in recent times by the lives of Lincoln from the pens of Beveridge, Charnwood, Sandburg, Barton, Ludwig and many others.

#### Lincoln Statue Removed

The local story has to do with the removal from before the Courthouse about ten years ago of a statue of Lincoln and its subsequent restoration near the same spot after it had been allowed to lie in storage for several years.

Put up in 1868, the statue represented the freewill offering of the people, having been provided by popular subscription. Competitive designs were called for. That of Lot Flannery was selected. An Irish apprentice boy, Flannery was employed under Gagliardi, Butti, Vincenti and the other Italian sculptors who worked on the wings of the Capitol that were being built as additions to the main portion during the middle and late 50's. Flannery also knew Lincoln.

Advertisement of the contemplated project appeared in the old National Intelligencer in 1865. The statue was erected on a pedestal twenty-three feet high on the third anniversary of Lincoln's death. Newspaper accounts of the time tell of a monster dedication and great enthusiasm.

After standing for fifty-one years, the statue was taken down. It then stood somewhat in the street. An act of Congress was passed, providing for a correction of certain boundary lines. The bill said nothing about the statue, but it fell to the lot of the military authorities to carry out the provisions. This they did with blunt directness. The statue was taken down without asking any questions of anybody and stored away back of the Agricultural Department.

#### People's Tribute Restored

There naturally was considerable talk and no small amount of indignation. It was not until June, 1922, however, that the Senate passed a bill which had come over from the House, appropriating \$5000 for a new pedestal and providing for the replacing of the statue near its original site.

In the following November the statue was set up once more. Part of one of the hands had been broken off in some manner while the statue was in "storage." A movement was started to have rededication ceremonies similar to those held when the statue was first erected. Nothing came of it although some of the old Civil War soldiers wrote impassioned pleas to the papers. The failure to respond was in a measure understandable. The country was taking breath from the exhaustion of the World War and in no mood for celebrations, however worthy. But many attended the simple ceremonies, among them Justice Wendell Phillips Stafford, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. From his seat on the bench, Justice Stafford had a view of the statue as replaced. Missing on his return from the rededication, he penned these lines, entitled "The Courthouse Lincoln Speaks," which answer well for the lack of any tumult and shouting:

Well, here I am once more in my old place;  
I'm rather glad; I always liked old things—  
Old clothes to wear, old neighbors and old books,  
And truth and justice, oldest things of all.  
Men called me old when really I was young;  
They nicknamed me Old Abe, Honest Old Abe.

I never had a title I liked more.  
I'm glad because there is a courthouse here;  
I feel at home; I did a stroke or two in that same line; and it might do no harm  
If witnesses should pause as they pass by  
And now and then a lawyer should look up.

Not thinking of the Martyr President,  
But merely of Old Abe, Honest, Old Abe.

On December 19 following the restoration of his handiwork to its earlier position, Flannery, the sculptor, "one of Washington's oldest inhabitants," died at his home at the age of 86. He was actively employed until a few days before his death. His workshop was located not far from the Capitol. He and his brother lived on the Capitol grounds when children.

#### Sculptor Saw Lincoln Shot

Interviewed in his old age, lying on a cot in his "shack," Flannery roused himself painfully and told of being at Ford's Theatre on the fateful evening of April 14, 1864. It was in the middle of the second scene of the third act that a pistol shot rang out. Young Flannery saw Lincoln's head fall forward. This sight accounted for the tall pedestal to his later work.

"When it fell to me to carve and erect the statue," said the aged man, "I resolved to place it so high that no assassin's bullet could ever strike him down."

Another work of Flannery's was a marble bust of General John A. Logan, for a time placed on exhibition at the Capitol. Its whereabouts is also a mystery, although Charles E. Fairman, art curator of the Capitol, thinks it found a place among the possessions of Mrs. John A. Logan. A copy of it, made by Franklin Simmons, another sculptor of note, was used in the construction of the equestrian statue of Logan now standing at Iowa circle. Simmons also made the Peace Monument, standing at the foot of the Capitol grounds and used by nearly all visitors as a datum point from which to conduct their sightseeing expeditions.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., AUGUST 19, 1922



## Lincoln Statue Sheds Its Fingers Under Traffic Jars

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—  
Several fingers have fallen off  
the statue of Abraham Lincoln  
in front of the District Supreme  
Court.

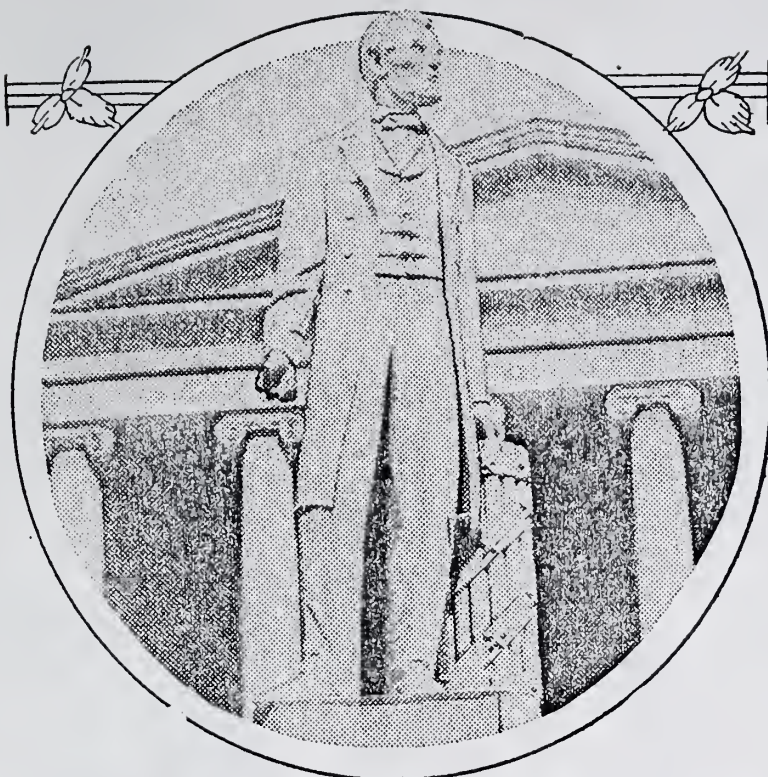
An inherent weakness in the  
stone, coupled with vibrations  
produced by heavy traffic, was  
found to have been the cause.

The Fine Arts Commission  
will have the statue placed in-  
doors and preserved for its his-  
toric value.

NEW YORK CITY JOURNAL  
SEPTEMBER 28, 1929







TRAFFIC SHAKES FINGERS OFF LINCOLN STATUE—Vibration from heavy traffic in front of Washington, D. C., courthouse causes loss of three fingers from statue of Abraham Lincoln, which may be moved inside to preserve it. *New York Times 10-4-27*



# The Rambler

## Faithful Image Of Ill-Fated Man

By JACK JONAS

Who is to say now how a man long dead looked in life a century ago?

If you wanted to know what Abraham Lincoln really looked like, for instance, and had only flat one-dimensional photographs, where would you go?

One place, experts say, is to the first monument erected in Washington to Lincoln's memory. It is the work of Lot Flannery, a sculptor who knew Lincoln personally.

The marble likeness—standing in front of the old District Court building on Indiana avenue near Fifth street N.W.—was quickly and grandly conceived, but it was slowly and modestly accomplished because, paradoxically, so many wanted to honor Lincoln's memory that funds to do so were spread thin.

Lincoln had been dead only nine days when the City Council here met to appoint the Lincoln National Monument Association and announced the then big goal of \$100,000 to finance the monument.

However, it was three years before the statue was set in place, and the final total of the contributions was about \$25,000. Other cities also wanted memorials to Lincoln, and thus little money was raised outside the Capital.

THE SCULPTURE'S simplicity did not dampen the



Star Staff Photo.

FLANNERY'S LINCOLN

"... better than anything"

enthusiasm of the dedication any more than the rain which fell that day.

Despite the current impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson, the story of the statue's dedication was the principal news on the front page of The Star on April 15, 1868. It covered five and a half of the page's seven columns. Crowds estimated at 15,000 to 20,000 jammed the street in front of the courthouse.

The statue, life-size, pictures Lincoln in an informal speaking pose with one hand resting on a fasces, the symbol of Government.

It stood 52 years where it was dedicated. Then, in 1920, the old Court House building was remodeled and the statue vanished—spirited away by some who felt it was not fancy enough.

A storm of protest broke, but that blew itself out when city officials made no move to restore the statue.

Then Freeman Thorpe, an artist, who also had known Lincoln personally, came to Washington. He went to see the statue, found it gone, and raised his voice in indignation.

"After a tedious search," he wrote, "I found the statue down near the river . . . not stored at all, but lying outdoors, roughly crated and covered partly by an old piece of gunny sack."

—o—

THE REDISCOVERY touched off a series of claims to the statue from other sections of the country. There were speeches in Congress to the effect that if Washington had spurned the statue, there were other people who wanted it.

But the statue was carted back to the Court House, remounted, and rededicated on April 15, 1923—four months after Sculptor Flannery had died.

Read Mr. Thorpe's description of the sculpture and determine if it might not be worth a visit on Lincoln's birthday to see how he appeared in life:

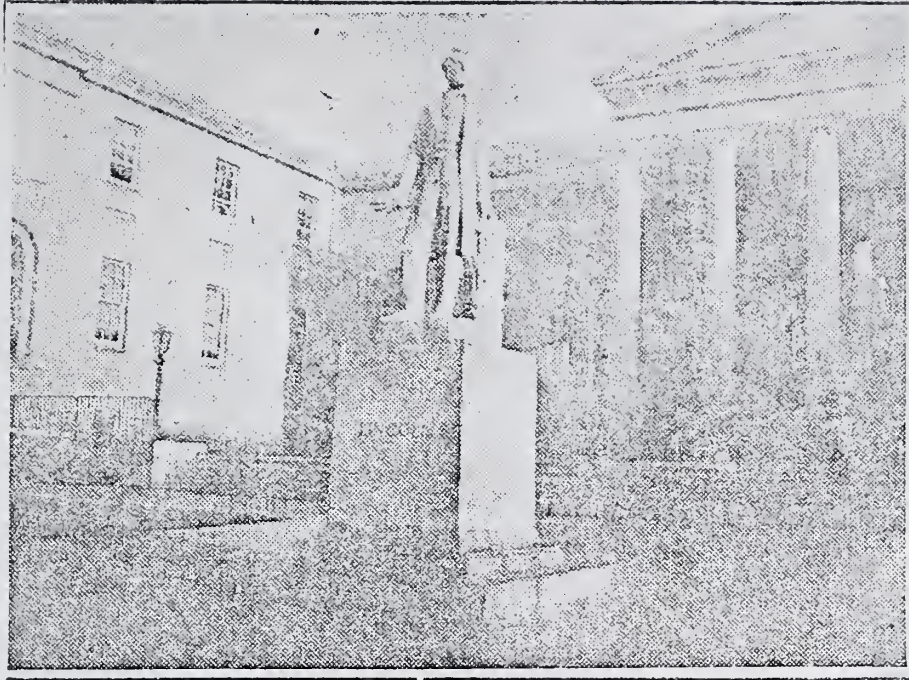
"... a better likeness of Lincoln than anything in plaster, stone, marble or bronze that I have seen, and I have seen about all that have been made. Some have been made that are unquestionably great works of art, but the best of them are not accurate likenesses. This one is to those who, like myself, knew Lincoln pleasing to look

at, because it is accurately modeled and its simple truth 's in keeping with the unassuming man we loved."





# To Rededicate Oldest Lincoln Statue



Oldest statue of Abraham Lincoln in the world

The art critics said, "Thumbs down"; but the civil war veterans conquered. As a result, Washington, D. C., is planning for the early rededication of the oldest Lincoln statue in the world.

On April 14, 1865, a 24-year-old stonecutter, Lot Flannery by name, attended a Washington theatre. In a box sat the President of the United States. Suddenly a shot rang out, and not many hours later Abraham Lincoln belonged to the ages.

The picture of the fatal moment stamped itself indelibly on Flannery's mind. When Lincoln's neighbors determined to erect a statue to the President's memory, the idea fired the ambition of the young stonecutter. He had known Lincoln—had watched him in his last tragic hour. He carved a statue, entered it in the competition, and won.

## *Monument Unveiled*

On April 15, 1868, 45 years ago today, Flannery's statue was dedicated on the site of an old slave market. All Washington was there. The civil war heroes were headed by Gen. Grant. President Johnson unveiled the monument. But the spectators whose hearts throbbed the most were the old acquaintances of Lincoln. Others knew him as a historical character. They knew him as a friend.

The statue was placed on a column 20 feet high. Flannery said: "I lived through the days and nights of gloom following the assassination and when it fell to me to carve this statue, I resolved

to place it so high that no assassin's hand could ever again strike it down."

Years passed, and along came 1919 and an art commission. They looked at the statue on its long, thin column and said: "Inartistic—it must come down."

An item authorizing its removal was slipped into a deficiency appropriation bill in Congress and the memorial was removed and placed in storage.

## *Storm of Protest*

A storm of disapproval arose from the old inhabitants. "It is our statue," they said. "Our money paid for it. What right has Congress to take it away?"

Indignation meetings were called; the press was flooded with angry letters; the President of the United States was petitioned.

Finally, art had to yield. The statue was recalled from its hiding place and set up within a few feet of its original location. It was unharmed save for a coat lapel broken off during its wanderings.

In place of the old column, it now stands upon a temporary foundation exactly like a marble base which is being prepared for it. When that is finished, it will be dedicated once more.

Down by the Potomac stands the new five-million-dollar Lincoln Memorial, containing a heroic statue by Daniel Chester French. Artists gaze upon it with admiration. But to the folks in Washington there is only one real statue of Lincoln. It is the old Flannery statue, the oldest one in the world and the only one made by an actual acquaintance of the martyred President.



Lott Flannery's statue of Lincoln stands in front of the Court House in the attitude of one addressing an audience. The monument was originally about 40 feet high, but <sup>in 1913</sup> the shaft <sup>was</sup> ~~has been~~ removed and the statue, life size, now rests on a pedestal 10 feet in height. It was erected in 1868 by the Lincoln National Monument Association at a cost of \$7,000.





# PLEADS FOR RIGHTS OF PUEBLO TRIBE

Preserve Last Remnants of  
Civilization 5,000 Years  
Old, Says Novelist.

ATTACKS BURSUM BILL

Urges United States to Abide  
by Treaty Signed by  
Abraham Lincoln.

Branding the Bursum bill confirming "squatter" titles to Indian lands as an attempt at governmental larceny, Mary Austin, renowned novelist, declared before an open forum luncheon of the National Popular Government League yesterday that Congress is being urged to enact a law which will wipe out the last traces of an American civilization 5,000 years old.

Mrs. Austin spoke in behalf of the Pueblo Indians, a score of whom attended the meeting in their picturesque blankets and feathered headgear.

## PROMISE OF LINCOLN.

The Pueblo Indians, Mrs. Austin declared, are being subjected to one of the most vicious attempts on record of unscrupulous politicians to steal their lands. The title to these lands, she declared, is guaranteed to the Pueblos in a treaty made between the Indians and Lincoln which stipulates that the lands shall belong to the tribes "for all time."

"What name do you call it by, when officials of the Government initiate measures to violate a treaty of the United States?" the speaker demanded. The audience, which included a number of Representatives and Senators, answered "Traitors."

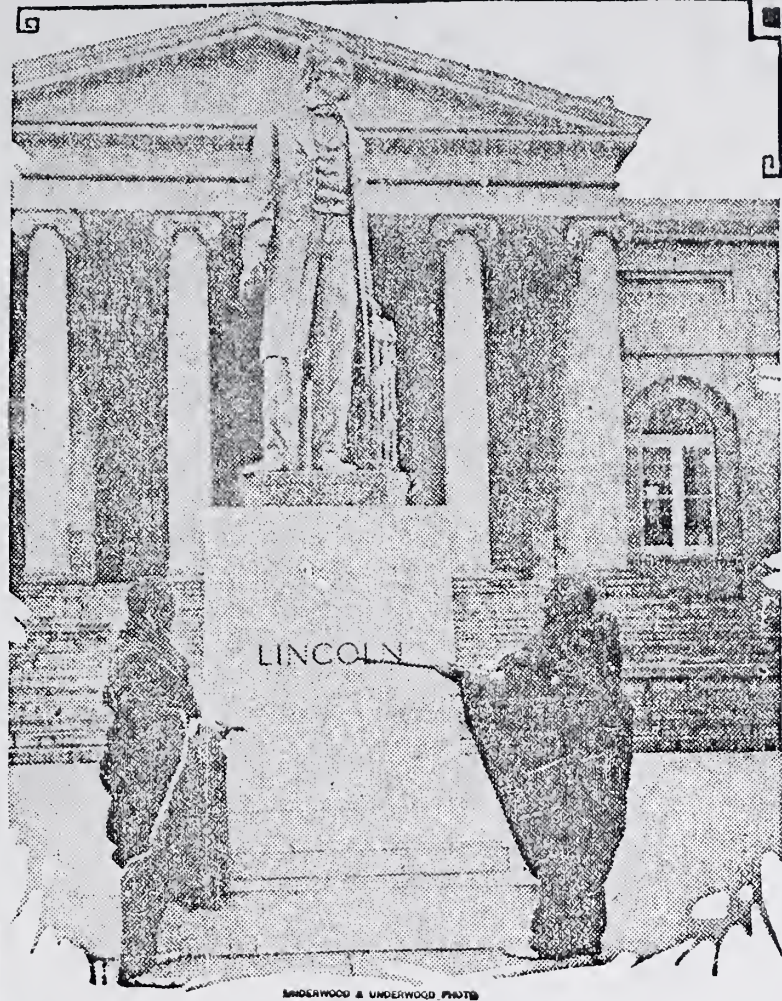
"Five thousand years before self-government was known to European people, the Pueblo Indians in America had established their democracy," Mrs. Austin declared. "They had cities, an enviable culture, and a beautiful literature. We have the only access to this great civilization through the few thousands of these people who are left. If the Bursum bill is passed it will mark the success of land-grabbing politicians in destroying one of the ancient races, as well as in befouling the sacred treaty pledges of this country to another people."

## SAVED BY WOMEN.

Only the hasty action of the National Federation of Women's Clubs prevented the Bursum bill from becoming law shortly after it was presented, Mrs. Austin said. The measure has so aroused every organization of women that the bill probably will fail, she declared.

Describing the Pueblo nation today, Mrs. Austin said that it comprises about 10,000 persons. The people always have been an agricultural race and have never roamed the plains as did the nomadic tribes of other North American Indians. Because they are an

**PUEBLO INDIANS**, first in the Capital since the days of Lincoln, visited the monument of the Emancipator in Judiciary Park and paid tribute to him. They are asking Congress to save their lands.



agricultural people, she said, they were enabled to build up a civilization and to develop their arts to a remarkable degree.

## ARE NOT FIGHTERS.

"The Pueblos are nonwarlike, they have no institutionalized widows and orphans," Mrs. Austin said. "They have been taught through 5,000 years of communal life to think in terms of the group. And as a result I can say truly that these people live and think on a much more generous plane than the average American citizen."

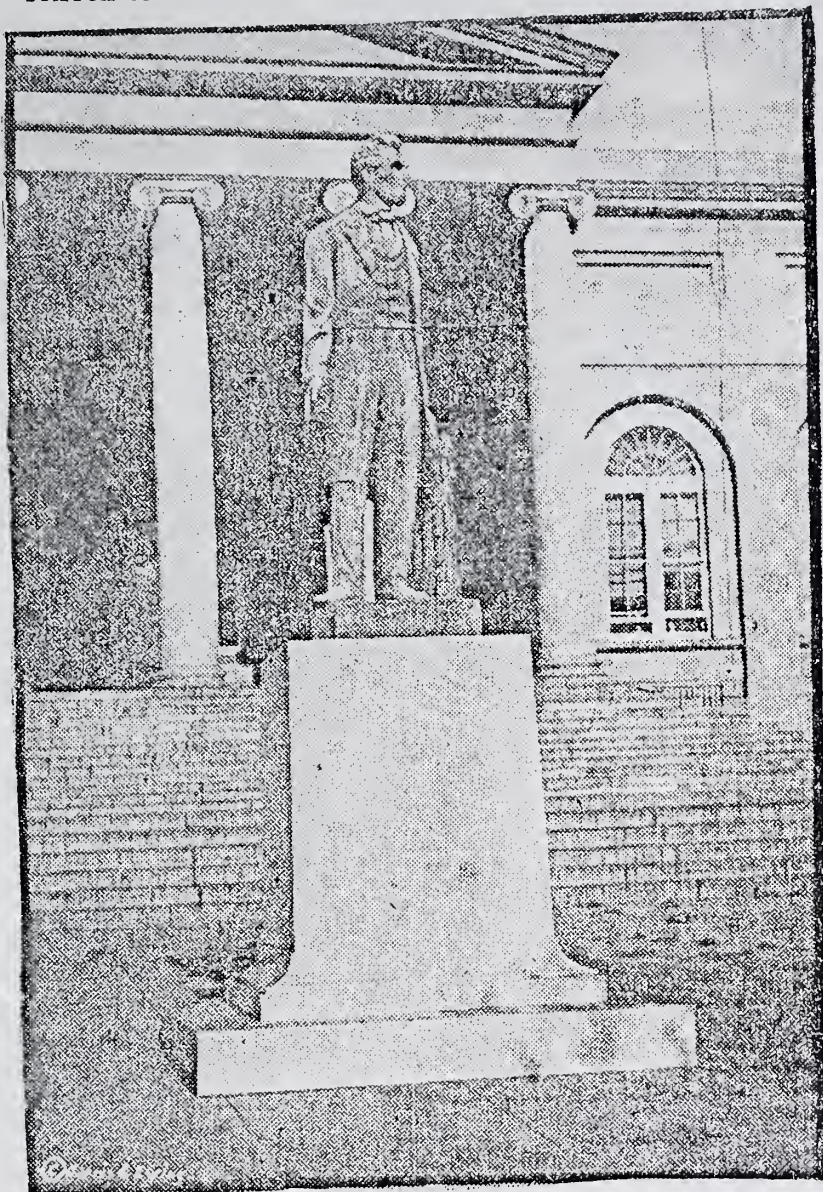
Because the Indians are considered minors before the law they have been unable to resist the slow encroachment of "squatters," Mrs. Austin said. The Indian Bureau, she declared, has not defended these lands for the tribes, and they have been taken up by Mexicans and Americans. While the title to the lands cannot be validated under existing law, the Bursum bill would confirm all seizures up to 1922.

The Bursum bill has been opposed by another measure introduced by Senator Jones, which would provide irrigation for the Indian lands and compel restoration of seized tracts.





STATUE OF LINCOLN RESTORED TO ITS PLACE IN WASHINGTON.



After having been stored away for several years, since the remodeling of the court house in Washington, this statue of Lincoln by Scott Flannery is again in its old resting place. Many complaints were made from various parts of the United States at the time of its removal. It now rests on a smaller base, made of wood.





### **TO RE-ERECT LINCOLN STATUE.**

**Old Monument, Buried Away for Two Years, Is Ordered Up Again.**

WASHINGTON, April 28.—Re-erection on its original site in Washington of one of the first monuments dedicated to Abraham Lincoln, which for two years or more has been buried away in a court house basement, is ordered in a bill passed by the house.

When a new court house was built several years ago, the monument, funds for which were raised by popular subscription shortly after Lincoln's assassination, was ordered down by the fine arts commission, on the theory that it was out of harmony with its surroundings and that its pedestal was unsafe.

The monument which was the work of Lot Flannery, who knew Lincoln intimately, consists of a lifesize statue.

Ever since it was taken down, a fight, led by the Grand Army of the Republic, the Loyal Legion and other organizations, has been waged in congress to put it back. President Harding joined in, declaring there seemed to be so much of appealing sentiment about the restoration that congress ought to help.



FLANNERY, COTT

DRAWING 21A

SCULPTORS - F

